

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ROME 14265 222038Z

63

ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 PM-03 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 PRS-01 NEA-06 IO-03

SY-02 EB-03 OMB-01 SPC-01 AF-04 DRC-01 /071 W

----- 080909

P 221925Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2480

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 14265

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, IT

SUBJECT: TERRORISH: DEMARCHES TO PRIME MINISTER RUMOR AND SECRETARY  
GENERAL GAJA

1. DECEMBER 21 AP STORY FROM BEIRUT REPORTING AN NAHAR  
"OPERATION DEVERSOIR" PALESTINIAN COMMANDO COMMUNIQUE CAME TO  
MY ATTENTION FORTUITOUSLY ON DECEMBER 21 JUST BEFORE SCHEDULED  
CALL ON SECRETARY GENERAL GAJA WITH REGARD TO ANOTHER MATTER.  
I TOOK OCCASION TO RAISE WITH HIM THE AP STORY.

2. I TOLD GAJA THAT I WISHED TO STRESS AGAIN THE CONCERN OF  
THE US GOVERNMENT WITH REGARD TO THE SCOURGE OF TERRORISM WHICH  
MOST RECENTLY SO TRAGICALLY STRUCK AT ROME'S FIUMICINO AIRPORT.  
I STATED AGAIN OUR CONVICTION THAT TERRORISM CAN ONLY BE  
CONTROLLED BY FIRMNESS SUFFICIENT TO DEMONSTRATE CLEARLY THAT  
TERRORIST BLACKMAIL WILL NOT SUCCEED BUT, ON THE CONTRARY,  
WILL BE SEVERELY PUNISHED. I EMPHASIZED THAT IT WOULD BE  
EXTREMELY UNFORTUNATE WERE ITALY TO RESPOND TO ANY THREAT SUCH  
AS THAT IN THE AN NAHAR "COMMUNIQUE", QUITE APART FROM THE  
QUESTIONS RAISED BY THE "COMMUNIQUE" AS TO ITS AUTHENTICITY.

3. I ALSO RAISED THE QUESTION OF THE TRIAL OF THE REMAINING  
THREE TERRORISTS HELD IN CONNECTION WITH THE EARLIER ABORTIVE  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ROME 14265 222038Z

SAM INCIDENT AT FIUMICINO (ROME) AIRPORT. (THEIR TRIAL,

COINCIDING WITH THE DECEMBER 17 ATTACK, HAS BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL DECEMBER 28.) I SAID I WAS EXTREMELY DISTURBED BY THE PRESS INFORMATION THAT THE PROSECUTOR HAD RECOMMENDED THESE THREE TERRORISTS BE GIVEN PROVISIONAL LIBERTY PENDING TRIAL (EQUIVALENT TO BEING RELEASED ON BAIL). THE PRESS ACCOUNTS HAD SAID THE PROSECUTOR'S POSITION WAS THAT, IN VIEW OF THE EARLIER RELEASE OF TWO OF THE ORIGINAL FIVE, THERE IS NO LOGIC IN HOLDING THE REMAINING THREE IN JAIL. WHILE GRATIFIED THAT THE JUDGE DID NOT FREE THE THREE ON DECEMBER 17, I PRESSED GAJA HARD FOR ACTION TO HOLD THE THREE FOR THE PUNISHMENT THEIR CASES MERIT. I POINTED OUT THAT BEING EASY ON THE TWO RELEASED TERRORISTS HAS GAINED ITALY NOTHING, AND IN FACT, UNTIL THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMANDO OF THE DECEMBER 17 FIUMICINO RAID ARE IDENTIFIED, THE GOI CANNOT EVEN BE SURE THAT THE TWO RELEASED TERRORISTS DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE DECEMBER 17 ATTACK.

4. GAJA TOOK NOTE OF MY DEMARCHE BUT, CONSISTENT WITH THE GOI POSITION PREVIOUSLY SET FORTH TO US, COULD NOT GIVE ME ASSURANCES AS TO THE MAGISTRATE'S FUTURE DECISIONS. WITH REGARD TO THE AN NAHAR STORY, GAJA SAID THAT IN THIS SITUATION THE GOI WOULD LOOK VERY, VERY UNFAVORABLY UPON ANY SUCH ATTEMPT AT INTIMIDATION.

4. I SUBSEQUENTLY RAISED WITH PRIME MINISTER RUMOR THE SUBJECT OF THE THREE TERRORISTS STILL HELD HERE, REVIEWING THE SAME POINTS I MADE WITH GAJA. RUMOR SAID HE WOULD AGAIN LOOK INTO THE MATTER AND, WITHIN THE LIMITATIONS WELL KNOWN TO ME WHICH ARE IMPOSED ON THE GOI BY THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE JUDICIARY, HE ASSURED ME HE WOULD DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE.

5. COMMENT: WHILE OUR URGING IS ONLY ONE FACTOR OPERATING ON THE GOI IN THIS CASE, I HAVE LET BOTH RUMOR AND GAJA KNOW IN NO UNCERTAIN TERMS OUR POSITION ON THIS ISSUE. I BELIEVE THE LEVERAGE WE HAVE WILL AT LEAST INSURE A THOROUGH REVIEW OF ITALIAN THINKING ON THIS ISSUE, AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL, BEFORE THE SAM TERRORISTS' CASE COMES AGAIN BEFORE THE MAGISTRATE ON DECEMBER 28. POPULAR INDIGNATION, WHICH IS ACCURATELY REFLECTED IN THE PRESS, WILL BE AN ADDITIONAL HELPFUL FACTOR. I WILL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW THIS ISSUE CLOSELY, WITH AN APPROPRIATE FIRM PUSH WHEREVER POSSIBLE. VOLPE  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ROME 14265 222038Z

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN



## Message Attributes

**Automatic DecapTIONing:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 DEC 1973  
**DecapTION Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**DecapTION Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973ROME14265  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** ROME  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t1973128/aaaaafvw.tel  
**Line Count:** 107  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 29 OCT 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <18-Sep-2001 by kelleyw0>; WITHDRAWN <24-Oct-2001 by shawdg, 3.4.X6>; RELEASED <29-Oct-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <26-Nov-2001 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** TERRORISH: DEMARCHES TO PRIME MINISTER RUMOR AND SECRETARY GENERAL GAJA  
**TAGS:** PINS, PFOR, IT  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005